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NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Jamaica Plain

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

1893.

BOSTON
FOR
CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY

BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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JAMAICA PLAIN

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JAMAICA PLAIN:
PRESS OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN NEWS.
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JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Our Society is always happy to make new friends, and with the hope that fuller information may lead to greater interest among those to whom this work is not well known, our report is prefaced by a short history, for which we ask the indulgence of those who find it a twice-told tale.

In the autumn of 1871, an organization was formed here for the relief of sufferers by the Chicago fire. Then Jamaica Plain was a part of the town of West Roxbury. Those engaged in sending aid to Chicago decided, when that work was accomplished, that it was "desirable that the same organization, or a similar one, in which all religious denominations should unite and co-operate, should be formed for the relief of the necessitous in West Roxbury." The result of their decision was the formation of The West Roxbury Relief Society, in December, 1871, with the following article in its constitution: "The object of this Society is the relief of suffering, and the improvement of

the poor, by an organized system of charity." The town granted to the new society the use of a room in the Town Hall (now Curtis Hall), which was opened on the first of January, 1872, and has been used for the same purposes ever since. The managers of the West Roxbury Relief Society did good work for three years, though hampered by lack of funds and of a definite organization. At the end of that period a change became necessary in consequence of the annexation of West Roxbury to Boston, and in December, 1874, another organization was formed, The Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society. In 1884 the name was changed to The Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, and from time to time methods of work have been altered, but it is one Society which covers the nineteen years. Generous contributions to the Society were secured in the beginning, so that its organizers were able at once to give attention to more difficult problems. Those were pioneer days for workers in organized and thoughtful charity. Boston had no Associated Charities, and the literature of the subject, now so helpful, was small in quantity and not easy to obtain. Yet in the face of these obstacles the founders of this Society showed such wisdom that we feel just pride in re-reading their first reports.

One change in the Friendly Society's methods illustrates our ever-present desire to profit by the thought and experience of the wisest charitable workers. Formerly, when a family were found to be in need, one of the visitor's first duties was to learn whether they had a settlement here,

and if so, to try to obtain out-door relief. Now it is known that public relief is most demoralizing, and to be accepted only as a last resort. Thus a complete reversal of method has come about. Not only do we now avoid, as far as possible, sending anyone to the Overseers of the Poor, but their agent sends his new applicants to us for investigation.* By this arrangement we have been able, through temporary relief and the influence of a friendly visitor, to lead more than one family past the dangerous place where they might have entered the high-road to pauperism by accepting their first public relief.

The Friendly Society always has workers from the different churches, who care for those in need without distinction of race or religion. In a word, this Society exists for the benefit of "all sorts and conditions of men," if they are in need and live within its district. That district comprises the larger part of Ward 23, exclusive of Roslindale and West Roxbury. Constant communication is maintained with the Associated Charities, and much valuable information received in this way. Each year our Society is brought into contact with other societies and

* The following quotation is from Mr. C. F. Loch, Secretary to the London Charity Organisation Society: "The reform of out-door relief in Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East and Stepney has been carried out in co-operation with charity. It should be a duty of charity to stop and deal with all cases of distress in which pauperism can be prevented, and also to 'take off the rates' all such cases. Co-operation with the Charity Organisation Society for this purpose is in force in connection with some nine or ten of the Boards of Guardians in London. In all Unions there is an interchange of information."

with hospitals. This year, prominent among the former are the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the United Hebrew Benevolent Association. Persons in our care have been sent to the City Hospital, the New England Hospital, the House of the Good Samaritan and St. Luke's Home for Convalescents.

The severe and long-continued cold of the last winter caused unusual demands for fuel, which it was a great satisfaction to supply. The Society was able to relieve adequately the families who, for days or weeks, required food and fuel. The complex problems of intemperance are always before us for attempted solution. This year some of them have been peculiarly difficult to deal with. In several families, where want has come from the father's intemperance, the question has been how to relieve the suffering of the innocent wife and children without undermining the man's remaining self-reliance. Several intemperate women have also required much sad and anxious consideration. This is the darkest side of our work. Happily there is a brighter one. Worthy persons, whose need is caused by no fault of their own, are not seldom among our applicants, and it is pleasant to provide for their comfort. This year we have been glad to secure, for elderly persons of this description, the benefit of certain Funds which have been left in Boston for just such people. The recipients of these Funds are aided without becoming paupers. There have been fewer beggars of late, but, as usual, all those investigated proved unworthy.

Again we are grateful for the co-operation of the churches, the physician of the Jamaica Plain Dispensary, the agent of the Overseers of the Poor, the truant officer and the police. Our thanks are also due to friends who have sent us boots and shoes and partly worn clothing, always gladly received at our room, and to the Jamaica Plain Gas Company for its annual gift of coke.

The Friendly Society has no endowment, and depends for support upon annual subscriptions. In our part of the city, retaining as it does something of the local character which belonged to the town, it is easier to learn the real condition of the poor than it can be in the crowded districts. For this reason, those who contribute to the work may feel sure that their money is never distributed in any wholesale way, but always used with personal knowledge of those benefited by it. There is no lack of workers, so that every needy family is promptly supplied with a visitor, whose aim is to establish friendly relations, not merely to give aid. Though, as usual, there is a balance in the treasury of the Friendly Society, we beg our friends not to think their annual subscriptions unnecessary. This reserve fund might prove most important in the event of the always-possible epidemic or other general calamity, when much suffering must be promptly relieved. We are proud of this surplus, continued from year to year, as evidence that the community has confidence in our work. No applicant to this Society has ever been turned away unaided because of lack of funds to supply his needs. We appeal to the people of Jamaica Plain to continue this record by their generous

contributions, promising on our part to give our best thought and effort to the wise use of the money thus intrusted to us.

Ellen C. Morse.
Mary Faulkner.
S. Jennie French.
Fannie M. Hopkins.
Eleanor S. Parker.

Statistics for 1892–93.

Families visited,	61
Visits reported,	426
Applicants,	74
New garments given away,	57
Boots and rubbers given away,	33
Women taking sewing,	15
Articles made,	484

The Friendly Society's room is in Curtis Hall, South St. Miss L. T. Blaikie, the agent, is there from ten o'clock to one o'clock every week day (except Saturdays and holidays), from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May, and from eleven to twelve o'clock, one of the Case Committee is also present. All persons interested are invited to visit the room. Plain garments and sheets and pillowcases are kept for sale, and also made to order.

Treasurer's Report.

October 10, 1892, to October 2, 1893.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand,	$146.15
Subscriptions,	1212.70
Sales,	115.45
Returned by agent,	1.55
	$1475.85

EXPENDITURES.

Agent's salary,	$300.00
Paid for provisions and milk,	158.74
" " materials,	81.66
" " boots and shoes,	33.02
" " coal and wood,	95.54
" by Case Committee for work,	160.00
" for printing,	45.00
" " stationery and postage,	8.10
" " carriage hire,	2.00
" " repairing lock,	1.10
" " transportation to Nova Scotia,	20.00
" Associated Charities for registration,	100.00
Balance on hand,	470.69
	$1475.85

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

Auditor's Report.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from October 10, 1892, to October 2, 1893, and that the same are correctly cast, and the payments therein are properly vouched, and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date, with a balance of four hundred and seventy dollars and sixty-nine cents ($470.69).

Charles P. Bowditch, *Auditor.*

Boston, October 7, 1893.

Officers of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society for 1892–93.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. William Bradley, Rev. John E. Tuttle, Dr. Arthur P. Perry.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Mary Faulkner.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, *Chairman;* Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Dr. J. C. Stedman.

Case Committee.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, Chairman; Prince Street.
Miss Mary Faulkner, Secretary; 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mrs. Austin B. French, 50 Seaverns Avenue.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.

Visitors.

Miss L. T. Blaikie, 18 Harris Avenue.
Miss Anna J. Bradley, 113 Chestnut Avenue.
Mrs. H. R. Brigham, 19 Myrtle Street.
Mrs. E. P. Butler, A. Street, near Boylston Street.
Miss C. E. Chickering, Jamaica Plain.
Miss Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Miss Mary Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place.
Mrs. Austin B. French, 50 Seaverns Avenue.

Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss E. E. Ingalls, 14 Myrtle Street.
Mrs. James A. Low, Forest Hill Street.
Miss Ellen C. Morse, Prince Street.
Mrs. H. D. Morse, 44 Pond Street.
Mrs. Walter Moulton, Green Street.
Mrs. Charles F. Ogilby, 90 Rockview Street.
Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.
Mrs. J. R. Pitts, Greenough Avenue.
Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street.
Mrs. Henry R. Stedman, Bourne Street.
Mrs. Samuel G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street.
Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hill Street.
Miss K. R. Wendell, 37 Greenough Avenue.
Miss Caroline Williams, 11 Warren Square.

Associate Visitors.

Rev. William Bradley, 113 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. H. W. Broughton, 17 Gordon Street.
Mr. E. W. Clark, 684 Centre Street.
Mr. Charles B. Cumings, 40 Greenough Avenue.
Rev. Charles F. Dole, Roanoke Avenue.
Dr. H. C. Ernst, 8 Greenough Avenue.
Dr. George Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mr. George W. Fowle, 212 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. E. P. Gerry, 2 Everett Street.
Mr. Patrick McMorrow, 171 South Street.
Dr. A. P. Perry, 60 Elm Street.
Rev. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.
Dr. J. C. Stedman, 119 Sedgwick Street.

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Mrs. John Wood
Mrs. R. W. Wood
Mrs. Stephen F. Woodman
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Wright

*Deceased

TAKE NOTICE.

Subscriptions are collected by The Friendly Society's authorized solicitors in November. A prompt and generous response to their calls is hoped for, as the Society is entirely dependent upon these annual subscriptions.